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News

You're Not Crazy, Mystery Explosion Caught on Video [VIDEO]

A Salem resident was able to capture Saturday's bright flash and loud boom on video.

By [Owen Boss](#) [Email the author](#) January 8, 2013

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Salem's latenight "[mystery explosions](#)" have become something of a local conversation piece.

Every couple of weeks, our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) page will light up with messages from city residents who want to know what caused that earth-shattering sound in their neighborhood so late at night.

The latest report was in the [early hours Saturday](#)

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A big thank you to [Derek B](#), who sent in the video above, which he captured on home surveillance equipment.

Related Topics: [Mystery Explosion Marblehead](#) and [Mystery Explosion Salem](#)

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Don Nadeau

Flag as inappropriate

9:04 am on Tuesday, January 8, 2013

Well, now investigators have loads of data. They have the location (if they know this address): the exact direction and elevation based on the shadows, the exact distance based on the sound delay (about a thousand feet), the size and type of explosive based on the "fingerprints" of the sound and the flash and the specs of the recording devices.

Reply



Owen Boss

Flag as inappropriate

10:11 am on Tuesday, January 8, 2013

That's a good start!

john

Flag as inappropriate

4:39 pm on Tuesday, January 8, 2013

The only investigators are the people that hear it. Do you really think Salem is looking into it?



Jared Robinson

Flag as inappropriate

9:04 am on Tuesday, January 8, 2013

seriously, wtf is this?

Reply

Nancy Santos-Pacheco

Flag as inappropriate

9:33 am on Tuesday, January 8, 2013

Reports are all over the internet similiar to this one here in Salem and many are not here in Mass. Most recently the Coast Gaurd was searching Narragansett Bay due to so many reports in Warwick and Barrington of an explosion. But nothing was found. How very curious that all these different communities are reporting a simliar "loud bang" and lights but no one knows the origin. Can't wait to read more about it, and excited Salem caught it on tape!

Reply



Owen Boss

Flag as inappropriate

10:11 am on Tuesday, January 8, 2013

I've been getting emails from people all over the country who stumble upon our posts looking for answers to their own latenight noises.

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Derek B

10:48 am on Tuesday, January 8, 2013

The location is near Ocean and Summit Ave

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[Reply](#)



Anthony Paecht

12:43 pm on Tuesday, January 8, 2013

Possibly a Transformer further away? I have heard one explode before and seems plausible.

Flag as inappropriate

[Reply](#)



Owen Boss

1:02 pm on Tuesday, January 8, 2013

I thought that too, but if it were a transformer the police and fire departments would have had been notified.

Flag as inappropriate

Irishjedi

8:21 pm on Tuesday, January 8, 2013

Not necessarily will someone show up. I had transformer blow a fuse in front of my house 3 times and no one showed up. It was loud and shook my house. I had to call the electric company to tell them about it.

Flag as inappropriate

Marilyn

12:57 pm on Tuesday, January 8, 2013

Have had at least three of these sounds in my neighborhood in Novato, California. First time I thought it was a gun shot, a friend said they thought it was a pipe bomb. Each time it spooked me and my daughter. It was VERY loud. Coincidences??

Flag as inappropriate

[Reply](#)



Owen Boss

1:04 pm on Tuesday, January 8, 2013

Ever since we started looking into these latenight sounds (which our former editor Aubry can confirm were occurring well before I started at Salem Patch), we've received emails from people across the country who are reporting similar events.

Flag as inappropriate

Mark Steele

1:41 pm on Tuesday, January 8, 2013

With that kind of flash and being anywhere from 600 - 1200 feet away it wasn't made by ordinary fireworks.

Flag as inappropriate

[Reply](#)

Don Nadeau

2:27 pm on Tuesday, January 8, 2013

My boss suggested sewer gas, but sewer gas concentrates in sewers, which connect to the air by manholes, which have covers that blow off when the gas explodes. So if there are no "misplaced" manhole covers, it is less likely to be sewer gas. Mythbusters has a YouTube of all their explosions. Maybe an investigator could match up the video with one of them. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rw9xcKkSsag&feature=youtube_gdata_player

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Meg Elizabeth

4:18 pm on Tuesday, January 8, 2013

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2:36 pm on Tuesday, January 8, 2013

Wow!! Aliens or illegal aliens????

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Jes

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5:28 pm on Tuesday, January 8, 2013

They're always in the middle of the night, too. There have been some around the Collins Cove area a while back. You have the big tanks off of Bridge St , many high tension wires, and the power plant. Maybe it is aliens though?!?

[Reply](#)

Danielle

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7:21 pm on Tuesday, January 8, 2013

Cue Twilight Zone music...

[Reply](#)

Arcturus D.

Flag as inappropriate

10:57 am on Thursday, January 10, 2013

Any ground shaking accompanying this? Like in Wisconsin last year?

[Reply](#)

Bob

Flag as inappropriate

11:35 am on Thursday, January 10, 2013

You ever see War of the Worlds with Tom Cruise?? Very similar. Just saying.

[Reply](#)

Rebecca Richardson

Flag as inappropriate

6:59 pm on Thursday, January 10, 2013

I've heard the exact same sound/ noise where I live [Pacific NW]. I've always assumed it was someone shooting off an illegal firework or a loud gun. It happens so fast I just assume there's a plausible reason and don't give them much thought although it's disturbing.

[Reply](#)

Bob

Flag as inappropriate

7:59 pm on Thursday, January 10, 2013

Oh Great! 1st we had to worry about terrorist and now we have to worry about aliens. Geez. I hope it's not the Triffords!!

[Reply](#)

Red Baron

Flag as inappropriate

8:15 pm on Thursday, January 10, 2013

I say transformer as well.

[Reply](#)

Bob

Flag as inappropriate

8:29 pm on Thursday, January 10, 2013

If it's a transformer than why don't the Electric Company say it is. The police and authorities don't know as well as National Grid. Oh but you know?? I've seen transformers explode personally and this is no transformer.

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Ron

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10:31 pm on Thursday, January 10, 2013

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Bob

Flag as inappropriate

8:04 am on Friday, January 11, 2013

Maybe it is "The Transformers" invading the earth,I just hope it's not the man eating plants from outer space, the Triffords. They came with a bright light and bang too.

[Reply](#)

Roxie

Flag as inappropriate

12:30 pm on Friday, January 11, 2013

About 11 years ago there was a mysterious explosion in Stamford, CT when I lived there. It shook the house. It was in the papers the next day that everyone who called 911 thought it had happened right near them or in their house. They never found out what caused it, but it was so memorable that 10 years later the local newspaper ran a story about it's "anniversary."

[Reply](#)

Bob

Flag as inappropriate

3:39 pm on Friday, January 11, 2013

See, I knew it. Next someone will be saying it's sunspots in the middle of the night.

[Reply](#)

Stacey

Flag as inappropriate

5:04 pm on Friday, January 11, 2013

Not sure if anyone else heard another one over night last night, at 12:27am...

[Reply](#)

Dawn Owens

Flag as inappropriate

9:55 am on Monday, January 14, 2013

The sporting goods stores are selling explosive targets, could very well be those. If it was some natural occurrence it would be happening during the daytimes, too. Not a transformer unless the power goes out somewhere.

[Reply](#)

Mark L. Pfeifer

Flag as inappropriate

11:29 am on Tuesday, January 15, 2013

I wrote this to Linda once before that this really did happen to me and my printer at a printing facility near downtown Dallas only a couple months after 9/11. We were inside the printing facility at about 9p.m. at night when it sounded like we were in a war zone. Numerous loud booms right outside facility. Scary enough that I called 911. Police woman showed up and just as I opened the door to speak with her there was another loud boom and flash right behind her in the trees. Therefore, she could NOT deny our report. I had thought it might be transformers blowing up but there were none in the immediate area. No rain going on so it was really bizarre.

[Reply](#)

Bob

Flag as inappropriate

7:48 am on Wednesday, January 16, 2013

War of the Worlds. Watch the movie with Tom Cruise.

[Reply](#)

Scott Crumley

Flag as inappropriate

1:16 pm on Friday, January 25, 2013

This is not a common occurrence but it is happening in a larger area than you think. I had a chance to watch an explosion of a transformer and so I know what it looks and sounds like. I have also had this occur in my neighborhood. Last year in Austin Texas in the afternoon a large explosion noise occurred. I and my wife heard it and immediately I went outside to see what had happened. Nothing was visible. I called 911 to report it and asked while I was on the phone if anyone had reported it? I got a negative response. In a bit one other neighbor popped outside and I asked if he heard the explosion. He said he had. Nothing more came of it. The police showed up and did a quick drive through of the area and left.

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Aliens. There in the ground waiting to come up and eat us. Watch War of the Worlds.

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darla donatucci

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10:46 pm on Friday, January 25, 2013

I've seen this flash 3 times in 2012. Heard the giant booms and scraping sounds. I live in Oklahoma

[Reply](#)

Justin Harmon

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

9:34 pm on Saturday, January 26, 2013

I saw this once right in front of me one night while out with my dog. Very bright flash and a really loud bang - the street lights went out for a second or two and then everything started flickering back on. I walked over to the area where it happened and laying on the ground was a freshly fried Canada Goose! Poor sucker was coming in to land in a pond beside the power lines and apparently brushed its wings across two lines and shorted them out.

[Reply](#)

Liz

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

1:27 pm on Friday, February 1, 2013

I think this is the most plausible potential explanation of the bunch.

Gratefulso

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

4:28 pm on Sunday, January 27, 2013

The sound is from sonic booms from an underground fast-track train it's going from state to state. Americans don't know about it because it's the governments Top secret transportation system. The black ops government has a system to laser miles of rock in seconds. Thats's why you're hearing the train they're testing it for how fast it can go. Trust me the local government will never know what that sound is coming from because it's too deep for them to go down and take a look at it.

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Bob

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

8:39 pm on Sunday, January 27, 2013

Ya just like those 1 room underground apartments that people paid billions for when the nukes come out west.

jesse

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

1:07 pm on Friday, February 1, 2013

if you look at the shadows from the flash of light...it looks to me like the flash of light is at ground level. just thought i'd throw that in the pot.

[Reply](#)

Derek B

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

2:03 pm on Friday, February 1, 2013

Not at all at ground level. The cars cast a shadow which were in turn blocked by a 3 story house. I know, I live there.

Hank Sr.

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

1:07 pm on Friday, February 1, 2013

Check out this video on the "Booms and Earthquake" on the east coast, possible answer to your questions at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hM3szYqngq0>

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serious. It would be worthwhile all here to watch it entirely. we are in for a huge earthquake proven by facts.

Liz

Flag as inappropriate

1:59 pm on Friday, February 1, 2013

space junk or meteorite? Bolide?

<http://www.amsmeteors.org/2013/01/fireball-over-ne-usa-january-5th-2013/>

similar, from Canada:

<http://www.thecoastguard.ca/News/2012-08-13/article-3051435/Updated%3A-Meteor-likely-cause-of-mysterious-booms/1>

from 2009, disintegrating space junk entering the atmosphere: http://www.nbcnews.com/id/29958635/ns/technology_and_science-space/t/mystery-flash-traced-russian-space-junk/#.UQwKbb8T4bY

Now, to answer "why have we only started to hear about these things recently? it must be new and terrible!"... how many of you were surfing news sites and youTube 5 or 10 years ago and comparing comments on stuff like this? I love and fear the internet's capacity to incite mania.

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Bob

Flag as inappropriate

2:16 pm on Friday, February 1, 2013

Incite Mania??/ When the aliens are looking for you we will see who turns mania.

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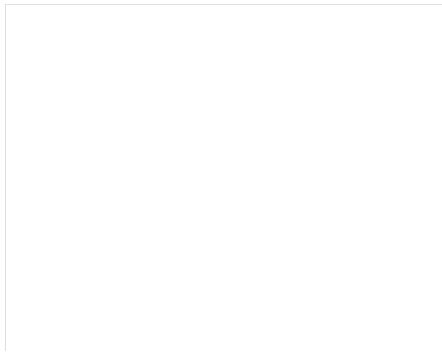
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